

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS

THE Director of the *Assistance publique* in Paris, M. Mesureur, has kindly consented to present a paper at the coming conference of nurses, describing the work of his department in the education and organization of a secular staff of nurses. The revolution which has taken place in French hospitals during the last twenty years has been considered in this department more than once. The *Assistance publique* of Paris is, in some respects, analogous to the Commissioners of Charities departments in our large cities, though none of our city fathers rule over so enormous a hospital and nursing population as those of Paris—about twenty large city hospitals and nearly twenty thousand nurses coming under the regulation of that branch of the municipal government which is directed by M. Mesureur. The paper which he has promised to give us will be an important feature of the Conference.

M. Mesureur takes a deep and highly-expert view of the nursing question, and has written much on it, his article called "The Mission of the Modern Nurse," reprinted from the *Revue Philanthropique* December 15, 1906, being especially notable.

Another paper of great historical interest that is promised will be one written by Mme. Gillot, who was for many years engaged in the work of instructing the lay nurses under the department referred to. Mme. Gillot is not a nurse, and the teaching she gave the pupils was on general, not on nursing, subjects. She was also the foundress of the *Bulletin Professionnel des Infirmières et Gardes-Malades*, the oldest journal in France devoted to the interests of nurses and nursing. Mme. Gillot has all the feelings of a devoted teacher and mother for the thousands of lay nurses in the great hospitals of Paris. In her narrative we shall hear of an effort of a kind, and of an extent, that will seem to open up a new world to our advantageously-situated workers.

Dr. Anna Hamilton, who is so widely known for her great achieve-

ment in introducing the English system of training-school organization and teaching into a hospital under her charge in Bordeaux, and whose writings in behalf of the modern system have kept pace with her actual results in work, has, as we have already mentioned, promised to give a full account of her work. Dr. Hamilton has actually done, in France, what Miss Nightingale did in England; that is, she has established a school that is a model and example, and has ceaselessly and untiringly advocated the correct principles of nursing by speech and pen. Her activities have also been described in this department, and we have shown photographs of the training-school at Bordeaux. The nurses of the Bordeaux hospital and others of their branches have recently established the nursing journal called *La Garde-Malade Hospitalière*, organ of the schools for nurses on the Florence Nightingale system. Dr. Hamilton's paper will be of immense importance.

Mme. Alphen-Salvador, who takes a lively interest in the questions of nursing education, has also promised to tell of her establishment of the school in Rue Amyot.

Probably one of the most stirring papers of all will be one which is promised us by Dr. Bourneville, who has been active in the movement for laicisation from its beginning. American nurses are in general so unaware of French conditions, that they will not realize the full significance of the announcement that Dr. Bourneville will take part in our conference, but after it is over they will be able to appreciate better the fact that we are receiving cordial recognition from a group of people who have been concerned in making very important history.

At home, Miss Matilda L. Johnson, head of the Visiting Nurse Association in Cleveland, has promised to write a paper on the development of the trained nurses' share in combating tuberculosis; and we expect to give reports of Settlement Work, Visiting Nursing and the Public School Service. Our nursing journals are responding well and we have promises of history from almost all of them, with complete replies not in. Miss M. E. P. Davis, who has from the outset been a force behind THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, will give the history of that magazine, and Mrs. Fenwick's account of the *British Journal* will sound like a romance. Next month we expect to give details and information regarding stopping-places, hotels, and meeting-place.

ITEMS

ENGLAND has an Open-Air League whose aims are to provide work at market gardening for cured consumptives, so that they may not have to return to dangerous trades and sedentary occupations.

THE journal of the institute for training nurses known as La Source, of Lausanne, has an article describing the Waltham school, as this school has been based on the methods and system of La Source, which was thoroughly described in an article sent to the nursing congress of the World's Fair in Chicago. La Source, like Waltham, claims a specialty of training nurses in the "home," and the article quotes Miss Nightingale, but overlooks the fact that Miss Nightingale has specifically declared that nurses could only be properly taught in a hospital.

THERE was an interesting and a pretty ceremony not long ago at the Tondu Civil Hospital in Bordeaux, when Miss Elston, the Directress of Nurses, received the *Palmes academiques* during a visit of inspection made by a number of prominent officials of the state. The nurses and probationers were present during the proceedings, and the organization of the School of Nursing was explained to the visitors by Dr. Lande. The Tondu school, which is a daughter of Dr. Hamilton's school on the Nightingale system in Bordeaux, is notable as being the first of its kind in a civil hospital in all France.

THE Matron's Council of Great Britain and Ireland has recently been represented by its able secretary, Miss Breay, at a United Hospitals Conference in London, where Miss Breay plainly pointed out that, while the nurses themselves, with their friends, were contributing all the funds to defray the necessary expenses of the movement for registration, their chief opponent in London, the Central Hospital Council, is fighting them with funds contributed by the different hospitals represented in it, and these funds are, presumably, a part of the charitable contributions made by the public to the hospitals. If this be true (and the charge has often been made in print and never to our knowledge denied) it is a very pretty kind of graft indeed, and shows what the English nurses have to contend against.

AN American nurse now travelling abroad has had a very unusual adventure in Spain. Being desirous of seeing one of the large hospitals, she found obliging friends in the daughter of her landlady, who offered

to conduct her to one, and a young Spanish priest, who kindly gave a letter of introduction to one of the chief surgeons. On the way the friend said: "As there is no such thing in Spain as a 'nurse,' the doctors would never understand what you are, and therefore it will be necessary to introduce you as a doctor." Anticipating no trouble from this little bit of utilitarianism, the visit was successfully made; the surgeons and physicians most courteously showed the whole hospital, explained everything, and the American was invited to come the next day to witness operations.

Imagine her consternation when, in the evening, a hurried summons came from the hospital, saying that the surgeon who was to operate the next morning had had an accident to his hand, and would the visitor kindly consent to perform the operation (a laparotomy!)?

The poor nurse, who really had gone abroad to recuperate her health, had nervous prostration on the spot.



THE BEST LEMONADE

"I LEARNED a new thing," said a woman recently, "while visiting an English friend who is living in the country. We had a small dance one evening of my stay, and my hostess served the most delicious lemonade I ever drank. I spoke of it the next day, and she told me that it was made with freshly boiled water--the secret, she said, of thoroughly good lemonade. 'I have a regular rule,' she further informed me, 'which insures success if I am making a quart or a gallon. For a quart I take the juice of three lemons, using the rind of one of them. I am careful to peel the rind very thin, getting just the yellow outside; this I cut into pieces and put with the juice and powdered sugar, of which I use two ounces to the quart, in a jug or jar with a cover. When the water is just at the tea point I pour it over the lemon and sugar, cover at once, and let it get cold. Try this way once, and you will never make it any other.'"

APPROPRIATE.—It was the smallest girl in the class who told her teacher that her name was "Minnie, mum."—*Lowell Courier*.